



Changing the economics of space

Reduced Risk for a Lesser Cost Approach

Small Satellite Reliability Technical Interchange Meeting

February 14, 2017



Introduction

- ❖ Reducing mission risk while maintaining reliability... at a low cost
 - Surrey approach
 - Employing COTS parts where possible

 - Fully utilize spacecraft resources
 - Power
 - Mass
 - Data storage/Telemetry

COTS

❖ What do I mean by COTS?

- Standard part, standard design, on the shelf, i.e. bought off a data sheet and not specifically designed for your program
- Commercial COTS, plastic parts etc.
- (Military COTS is not a world wide concept although available in the US)

❖ Why try to use COTS components?

- In simple terms ... to drive down the price and schedule of satellite missions
 - Cost
 - Schedule
 - Availability
 - Innovation

❖ How to use COTS components?

An Approach To Using COTS in Small Satellites

- ❖ Apply common space industry standards and approaches
 - Screening at the part level
 - Parts-level analyses
- ❖ Provides assurance from the component level upwards
- ❖ A ‘bottom-up’ approach, often driven by multiple contractual layers
 - Will impact cost and schedule

Another Approach To Using COTS in Small Satellites

- ❖ Consider what you want the mission to achieve
 - Technology demonstration, operational, lifetime, environment, etc.
- ❖ Consider what the mission price and schedule constraints are
 - Absolute deadline for launch (e.g. frequency filing), limited funding, etc.
- ❖ Consider your risk profile

- ❖ A ‘big picture’, top-down approach
 - Asking the right questions can allow you to achieve mission objectives and value for money

System Level Approach



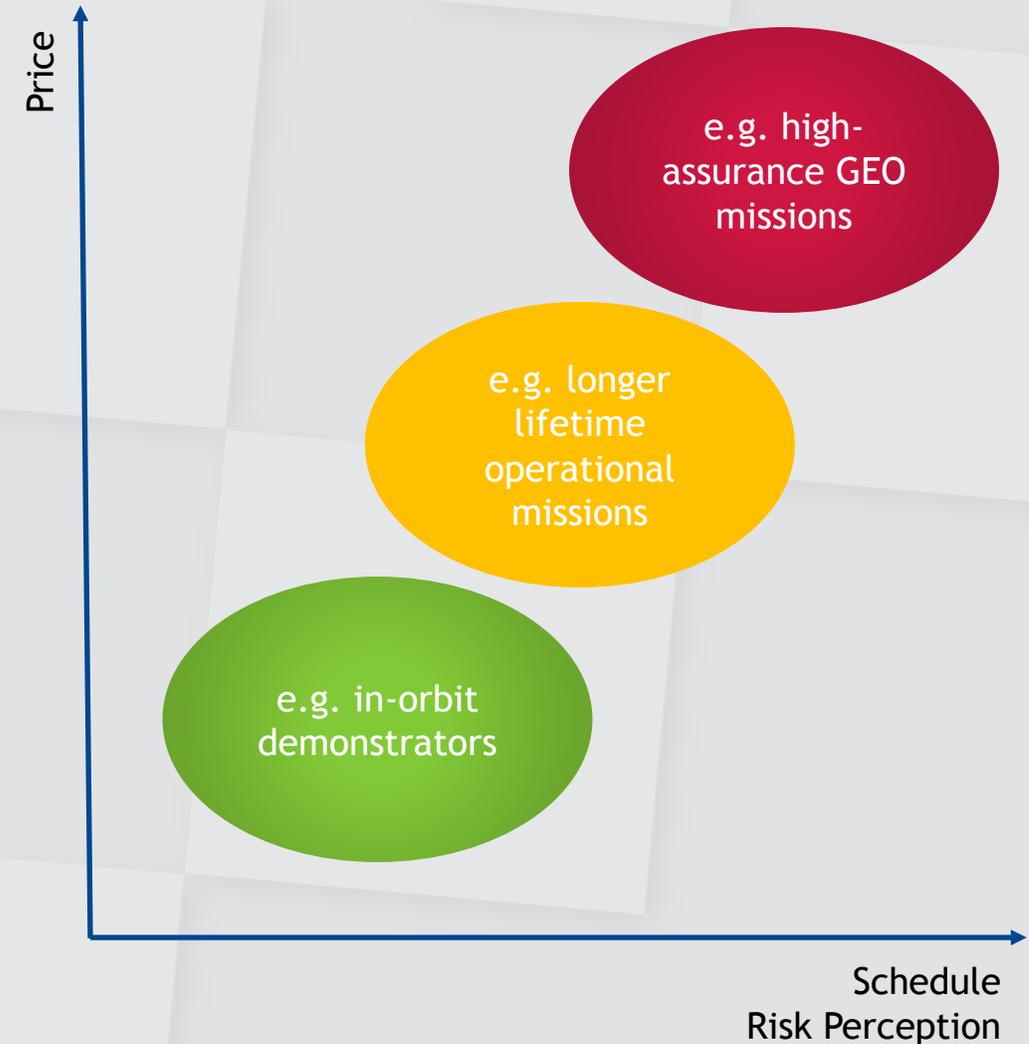
System Level Approach

- ❖ Parts selection is an integrated part of the design process
- ❖ Mission life and mission environment
- ❖ Margins
- ❖ Redundancy philosophy
- ❖ Radiation exists! so factor it into the system and board design
 - Consider the use of spot shielding by using high density metals (e.g. copper, brass or tantalum)
 - Consider replacing the part altogether with a rad-hard version if shielding is insufficient
 - If a part is sensitive to single event effects (SEE) then consider mitigation measures
 - Error-detection and correction (EDAC)
 - Triple mode redundancy (TMR)
 - Power system design
- ❖ Additional screening and radiation testing of certain critical components (if needed)

System Level Approach: Adaptability

❖ Allows adaptation of the solution during the mission design to reach a balance between

- Mission requirements
- Risk profile
- Schedule
- Price



An Example Mission

- ❖ Mission in a Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) for a traditional space customer
 - What's your first instinct on parts approach? Can you use COTS or not?
- ❖ Bringing Into Use (BIU) mission
- ❖ Required operational lifetime of 2 years
- ❖ Technology demonstration of new payload elements
- ❖ Hard deadline for frequency filing, you have just over two years until launch
 - Now what approach are you thinking?

An Example Mission: GIOVE-A

❖ System Level Approach

- Heritage based (COTS) avionics
- Applied additional shielding
- Introduced select changes in avionics design
- Redundancy in system design

❖ Outcome

- Delivered in 28 months for €28M (~\$31M)
- Launched 28 December 2005 with signals generated 12 January 2006
- Full mission success



Mission Level Approach - Shared Resources

- ❖ There is increasing interest in utilizing available resources on space assets, allowing a cheaper alternative and solution
- ❖ Accommodate a wide range of payload operational requirements, while ensuring optimal spacecraft resources and data access
 - Leverage proven and demonstrated technical, programmatic, and financial capabilities to provide the end-to-end elements required for successful hosted payload missions
 - Flight-proven, spacecraft buses based on modular designs that are tailored to suit mission-specific payload and launch requirements.
 - Fully utilizing available capacity: Mass; Power; and Data
 - Flexible mechanical configurations accommodate internally and externally-mounted payload modules, supporting a wide range of missions for Earth and space sciences, remote sensing, technology demonstration, space situational awareness, communications, and navigation.

History of Hosted Payload Missions

- ❖ Surrey has a long history with hosted payload missions stretching back to 1981

**Surrey has hosted over 60 hosted payload missions
on 32 of 43 satellites launched**

- ❖ While there is no “one-size-fits-all” when it comes to providing hosted payload solutions, Surrey combines:
 - A rigorous technical approach and end-to-end solution
 - Inherently adaptable, modular designs
 - A flexible mindset
 - Desire to fully understand each stakeholder’s motivations as well as key organizational and mission drivers

Heritage and Modular Design

- ❖ Extensive flight heritage in multiple configurations



DMC-4



TOPSat



LANL CFESat



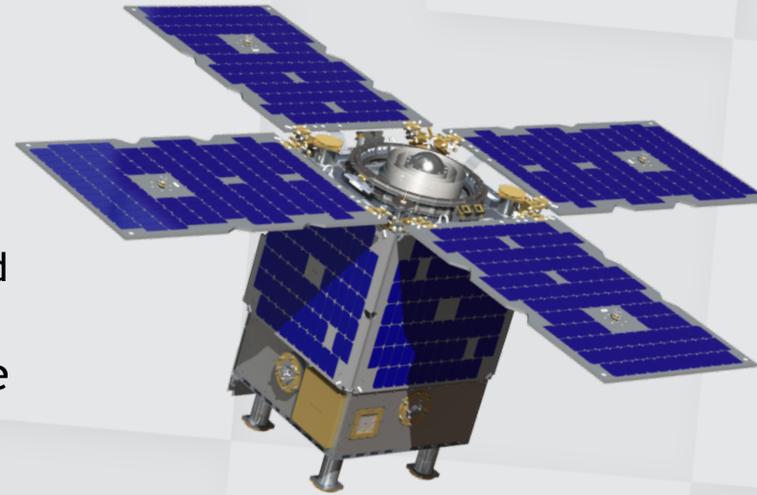
RapidEye Constellation

- ❖ Incremental controlled changes for platform development
- ❖ Starting from the core architecture, platforms are adaptable to many payloads needs
 - Deployable arrays
 - Fine pointing
 - Rapid tasking
 - Data interface options (CAN, RS422, 1553, Spacewire)

Example Hosted Payload Mission

❖ Orbital Test Bed (OTB)

- SST-US owned and operated
- Primary mission:
 - Fly a suite of Surrey payloads to demonstrate new platform and payload technologies
- Mission was initially designed for the SSTL-150 platform but interest from additional hosted payload providers led to the platform being grown to the SSTL-150 ESPA platform
- Platform growth allowed for additional mass and power capability that could be offered to a variety of hosted payloads
- Scheduled to launch on SpaceX Falcon Heavy, as part of the USAF Space Test Program



Conclusion

- ❖ Reducing mission risk while maintaining reliability... at a low cost
 - System Level - COTS
 - Not a blanket approach to use COTS or to use high-reliability components
 - COTS technology is one element that can provide significant reductions in costs and schedule
 - However many grades of components can be used on space missions
 - » Pure terrestrial COTS components
 - » Military standard components
 - » Traditional high-reliability space qualified components
 - Select parts to meet the individual demands of the mission and of the requirements
 - Mission Level - Hosted Payloads
 - No “one-size-fits-all” when it comes to providing hosted payload solutions
 - Compatible mission pairing
 - Available resources: Power; Mass; Data/Telemetry
 - Flexibility in Spacecraft Design
 - » Flight-proven, spacecraft buses based on modular designs that are tailored to suit mission-specific payload and launch requirements



Changing the economics of space

Thank You

Surrey Satellite Technology US LLC

345 Inverness Drive South, Suite 100

Englewood, CO 80112

(303) 790-0653

